

ENIL Personal Assistance Survey

Country/region: Slovenia

Updated on: 10/06/2015

Contact Person: Natalija Jeseničnik

ENIL Contact Person: Dilyana Deneva, dilyana.deneva@enil.eu

PART 1: KEY INFORMATION ABOUT PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

<p>Is there a right to personal assistance (PA) in legislation?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>There is no law in Slovenia which would regulate PA for disabled people. The last attempt by YHD, which submitted its own Personal Assistance Bill for parliamentary procedure, failed among promises that the government would prepare their own bill by the end of 2012.</p> <p>Otherwise, PA is provided by different NGOs by applying for PA social programs. PA is financed on a by-project basis through social programs under the condition, of course, that organisations applying for tenders meet certain standards and are able to satisfy programme criteria with their applications. PA is not available to everyone equally because it is not recognized as a right of every individual. In case of Slovenia we can say that only a fraction of people who would absolutely need it have it at their disposal.</p>
<p>Is PA provided on a pilot basis?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p>We can say that PA in Slovenia is still on a pilot basis for more than 15 years.</p> <p>PA has been organized through different programs of DPOs in Slovenia and is funded by different funders on the national and local level, lottery funds, donations and users participation. Different NGOs have started PA services in different years; the oldest has started in 1996.</p>
<p>What is the total number of registered PA users in the country?</p>	<p>The Ministry for work, family and social affairs is funding for employment of PAs but also for employment of some persons that help disabled people but the programs cannot be called personal</p>

	<p>assistance according to the principles of ENIL. The number of users in those programs according to their statistics is altogether 1116. Otherwise, there is no official number of users of PA in Slovenia. In three mutually comparable programs of PA in three NGOs there are altogether 297 PA users.</p>
<p>Does everyone, regardless of type of impairment, have access to PA?</p>	<p>It depends which NGO provides PA, because only one NGO is cross-disability organization. Other NGOs are organized on the basis of type of impairment and only their members are eligible to get PA.</p>
<p>Does everyone, regardless of age, have access to PA?</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>Younger than 18 and older than 65, with some exceptions</p>
<p>Who carries out eligibility assessments for PA?</p>	<p>NGOs that provide PA through social programs carry out eligibility assessments for their users. There are no special procedures and the procedures are not uniformed. Needs assessment, which includes required PA, is left to programme rules. Each organisation sets its own priorities and standards for assessing their users' needs. Organisations are primarily limited by the number of PAs they can employ via subsidies. The number of employed PAs is of course in direct proportion to the number of hours of PA the users can receive.</p>
<p>How often are assessments repeated?</p>	<p>Currently no official assessment of users' needs included in programs is being done. Again, it depends on the procedures of every NGO that provides PA through social programs.</p>
<p>Is there a specific assessment tool that is used?</p>	<p>There is no official assessment tool, but some NGOs have their own questionnaires that are being used as assessment tool.</p>
<p>How are PA services funded?</p>	<p>Both: YES</p> <p>Currently PA is available only as a social welfare programme, which means that PA is financed on an annual basis or for several years in advance both on national and local level. Programs are also financed via user contributions and donations, lottery funds and other resources available to organizations.</p>
<p>What is the maximum number of PA hours per</p>	<p>Some PA providers allow up to 24 hours of PA if needed, but that usually depends on how much</p>

day/week that can be approved?	funding the NGO has and whether it is possible to employ so many personal assistants.
What is the hourly rate that is funded?	The average cost of one PA hour in 2014 was € 8,52. The Ministry for work, family and social affairs is funding about 60 - 70%, other financers vary-it depends how successful NGOs are in fundraising.
Who administers PA services?	NGOs that provide PA services.
Are direct payments/personal budgets available for funding PA?	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
What is the total number of direct payments/personal budget holders in the country?	/
Are there restrictions on what PA can be used for?	It depends on the policy of each organization that provides personal assistance. In some programs there are restrictions about some tasks that user can give to PAs, for example reading longer texts to the blind people, there are restrictions about assistance within so called medical services like giving medications, catheterization, aspiration...and also restrictions about working time of PA's (e.g. they can only work during the week and in the morning) or about location of their work (e.g. they provide PA only in some student homes)
Are family members allowed to be paid as PAs?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES Again, it depends on the policy of each organization that provides personal assistance. For example in one of the organizations this can be only an exception if there is really no other alternative while in other organizations family members are quite often PAs.
Is peer support/peer counselling available with using PA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES Again, it depends on the policy of every NGO that provide PA, in some there is peer counselling available.

PART 2: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<p>Please provide background information about the introduction of PA into legislation/policy (which actors were involved in advocating for PA, was there inspiration drawn from a certain country, which public stakeholders were needed to set it up, which challenges arose in the process of developing the legislation/policy, what resources were needed)?</p>	<p>There is still no legislation about PA, but there was an initiative by YHD-Association of theory and culture of handicap to submit the bill for parliamentary discussion in 2012, with the support of citizens' initiative (they raised 7000 signatures in their support), but the initiative was ultimately not successful. The law was written by PA users themselves based on their almost 20 years of experience of providing PA through social programs. The biggest barriers were due to opposition from some DPOs, and government argument that the law is to expensive.</p>
<p>Are there any current challenges in implementing the PA legislation/policy?</p>	<p>This year the initiative will be repeated in cooperation with some other NGOs through the Deinstitutionalization Network. There are still certain objections from DPOs, especially if funding for personal assistance would include, in part, lottery funds that are now allocated to specific DPOs for the implementation of social programs for people with disabilities, including programs of personal assistance.</p>
<p>Has the legislation/policy on PA led to empowerment of disabled people, setting up of CILs or cooperatives etc.?</p>	<p>/</p>
<p>Is PA used in the process of de-institutionalisation (to help people leave institutional care)?</p>	<p>This year's initiative comes from MDI-Deinstitutionalization Network, a network of NGOs that already provide some of the community based services that help persons with disability to leave institutions and live independently. So, PA is already used in the process of deinstitutionalization.</p>
<p>Was any research carried out in the country on the costs of PA? If yes, please provide links or attachments.</p>	<p>One research on the costs of PA was carried out for the ENIL survey Comparing the Cost of Independent Living and Residential Care: http://www.enil.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Cost-survey_FINAL.pdf The other research on different community services is</p>

	being carried out in the project of Deinstitutionalisation Network, among others also about costs of PA.
If family members are allowed to work as PAs, is this considered problematic or beneficial?	Some NGOs that provide PA through social programs already employ family members but in some NGOs this is considered problematic. On the other hand, there is already another public service called "family helpers" and if a disabled person wishes to have a family member employed for help, this possibility is already adopted by the law. That is why there is an opposition to the possibility that family members can become PAs. Also, PA is considered to be a service that ensures independence from other family members.